MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

9 FEBRUARY 1983

Israel

Although most Cabinet ministers support the full implementation of the Kahan commission's recommendations, including the defense minister's dismissal, Ari'el Sharon still refuses to resign and Prime Minister Menahem Begin told the 8 February special Cabinet meeting that "he has no intention of firing Sharon," according to Jerusalem television and radio reports. The Cabinet meeting ended without a decision and a further meeting is scheduled for 9 February, IDF and Jerusalem radios noted.

Asserting that Israel must not hand Sharon's head "on a silver platter to the Americans," sources close to the defense minister said the Kahan commission's recommendation that Sharon draw "conclusions" does not imply that he should resign, Jerusalem television reported. Sharon thus told the Cabinet that he "accepts" the commission's recommendations and that the prime minister must now decide. According to Jerusalem radio, Sharon made a personal statement to the Cabinet in which he defended the reputation of the IDF officers criticized by the inquiry commission. The defense minister stressed the same theme in a subsequent speech to the Jabotinsky Order in Tel Aviv, according to excerpts of the speech broadcast by Jerusalem television. IDF radio reported that Sharon may accept the compromise of resigning from the Defense Ministry but remaining in the Cabinet, if the government agrees not to take steps against the IDF officers mentioned in the commission's report.

Meanwhile, the opposition Alignment called on the government to implement the inquiry commission's recommendations in both letter and spirit and to dismiss Sharon from the Cabinet, Jerusalem radio reported.

Reaction to Israeli Commission Report

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat described the results of the Israeli commission investigating the Beirut massacres as "important" but "insufficient" because they do not fully explain Israeli Prime Minister Begin's responsibility, Amman television reported. 'Arafat demanded the formation of an international court to try those responsible for the massacres as war criminals and follow up the commission's results, the television report added. Meanwhile, Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine official spokesman Bassam Abu Sharif said the commission's report is "incomplete" because it avoids holding the Israeli Government directly responsible for the massacres, according to Radio Monte Carlo.

In other comment, Cairo radio stated that if the commission holds Israeli officials responsible for the massacres, then Begin's Cabinet must resign immediately if it respects international law or "at the least" Begin should dismiss those involved and form a new Cabinet. The Egyptian paper AL-AHRAM noted that the inquiry is an internal Israeli matter and that the Arabs should take full advantage of the "noose of denunciation" placed around the necks of senior Israeli leaders for their direct or implicit responsibility for the massacres, the radio reported.

A commentary in the Syrian paper TISHRIN, reviewed by Damascus radio, declared that the commission's results provide an opportunity for the Israeli Government to divert attention away from an act of "premeditated aggression against Syria."

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iraqi aircraft flew 125 combat missions and destroyed a number of Iranian tanks, armored vehicles, weapons, and ammunition before returning safely to their bases, an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio claimed. An Iraqi military spokesman announced that 438 Iranians were killed during 8 February fighting in the Ash-Shib region, Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio noted. According to Radio Monte Carlo, Commander of Iraqi Military Operations Major General Hisham Sabah Fakhri estimated 15,000 Iranians dead and expressed his view that heavy fighting will continue for 4 to 5 days. The commander also cited evidence suggesting that the Iranians' main target is the Iraqi city Al-'Amarah, the radio added.

Iranian forces have liberated 300 square km of territory from Iraq and killed or wounded 800 Iraqis since the start of the offensive, according to an Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio. Earlier, Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani reaffirmed that Iran will only renounce its demand for war preparations if an Islamic republic is established in Iraq, IRNA reported.

Iran

Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri confirmed reports that Tudeh Party General Secretary Nureddin Kianuri and many other party leaders and members have been arrested for spying, falsifying documents, and illegal actions, IRNA reported.

Lebanon

Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. Talks -- The subcommittees on withdrawals and Israeli-Lebanese relations met at Khaldah on 8 February and the negotiations are expected to resume at Qiryat Shemona on 10 February, according to a Lebanese Information Ministry dispatch broadcast by Beirut radio. Jerusalem radio subsequently reported that U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib arrived in Israel carrying a U.S. proposal for the withdrawal of Israeli forces.

Security -- Although Beirut radio reported that 'Alayh was calm, the Voice of Lebanon and the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon reported Druze-Christian clashes in villages further south, to the east of Ad-Damur. In the Al-Biqa' valley, the IDF deployed 20 military convoys in forward positions opposite the Syrian lines, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. Meanwhile, a British unit of the multinational force arrived in Beirut, according to Beirut radio.

PLO Affairs

Yasir 'Arafat concluded his visit to Jordan and described his talks with Jordanian leaders as cordial, constructive, and positive, Amman television reported. The PLO leader said that the two sides discussed Palestinian and Middle East developments and that he found Jordanian King Husayn "very responsive," the television report noted. Later, 'Arafat arrived in Saudi Arabia, according to Riyadh radio. In another development, the head of the Egyptian diplomatic mission in Amman denied reports that Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian Foreign Ministry first under secretary, met with 'Arafat on 7 February and added that Al-Baz left Amman before 'Arafat's arrival, Radio Monte Carlo reported.

Egypt-Jordan Relations

Butrus Ghali, Egypt's minister of state for foreign affairs, and Usamah al-Baz arrived in Jordan on 8 February and held contacts with Jordanian officials on the Palestinian issue and the Middle East peace process, Cairo radio reported.

PDRY

An Iranian delegation concluded its visit to the PDRY after discussions with Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali, according to Aden radio and Tehran radio's Arabic service.

DAILY REPORT

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REBEL GROUPS 'CRUSHED' IN TWO PROVINCES

LD071747 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] The Armed Forces of the Badakhshan Province sarandoy command and the 24th Division recently crushed a group of rebels led by (Mansur) who were disrupting the peace and security of our toiling people in the suburbs of Jorm District in Badakhshan. A source in Badakhshan Province said that a number of assorted weapons and ammunition were seized from these criminals.

According to another report, the Armed Forces of the 18th Division and the Balkh Province sarandoy recently crushed a number of treacherous elements in the (?Yolmarad) area in the center of Balkh Province, capturing a number of these criminals along with several weapons and ammunition.

KING'S AIDES MEET WITH MUJAHIDIN IN PAKISTAN

GF061300 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 4 Feb 83 p 1

[Text] Lahore, 3 Feb — The former king of Afghanistan, King Zahir Shah, now in exile in Rome, has sent three representatives to find out how he stands with the mujahidin freedom-fighters and the Afghan refugees. One of these representatives also visited Pakistan.

This was disclosed by Haji Asal Khan, who supervises supplies to the mujahidin guerrillas in Afghanistan's Paktia Province and is now visiting Pakistan to collect donations for the mujahidin fighters and their cause.

Speaking to the press in Lahore today, Haji Asal Khan disclosed that King Zahir Shah had sent Ghulam 'Ali Aband, 'Abdul Hakim Tabibi, and Abdul Sattar Shalizai to Pakistan. 'Abdul Sattar Shalizai visited Peshawar and had talks with the Afghan refugees on the subject. The refugees told Shalizai that the Afghan mujahidin were not prepared to accept King Zahir Shah as head of their movement. However, he could join the movement as an ordinary worker.

Haji Asal Khan said that no solution to the Afghani problem will be acceptable, in which the Afghan mujahidin have not been consulted. He said: "Pakistan is not our advocate. Therefore, it has no authority to find a solution to the problem on our behalf." Haji Asal Khan did not elaborate as to what steps the mujahidin would take if they were not included in talks over the Afghan issue.

Besides Haji Asal Khan, the mujahidin commander in Paktia, Haji Abdul Hamid Rahimi, has visited Pakistan and since returned to Paktia.

Haji Asal Khan further said that a coalition of seven mujahidin groups has been forged which will appoint its representatives to the talks on the Afghan problem. He said when the Soviet forces withdraw and the Soviets cease backing the Karmal regime, the mujahidin would find their own solution to the problem. He also said that the Soviets are distributing huge amounts of money among the tribal leaders and prominent persons to enlist their support for the Soviets. He, however, did not confirm the reports that the Soviets had introduced Russian language courses into Afghan schools.

ASSAM EXTENDS ESSENTIAL SERVICES MAINTENANCE ACT

BK081622 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Text] The Assam Government has extended the scope of the Essential Services Maintenance Act 1981 to ban strikes in many services, including the secretariat staff. A government press note in Gauhati today said the ban will also apply to services connected with transport, supply of gas and water, public health, sanitation, hospitals, and dispensaries.

The police today opened fire at Belsor, about 75 km from Gauhati, to disperse a violent crowd which attacked the local police outpost. According to official reports in Gauhati, four persons were killed and some others injured in the firing. Curfew has been clamped in the area.

Police also opened fire in (Nannoi) in Nowgong District to disperse an unlawful crowd. One person died as a result. Another person was killed and 13 others injured when a bomb exploded in (Lonka Bazar) in Nowgong District.

The state chief secretary, Mr Ramesh Chandra, told all India Radio Gauhati correspondent this evening that, barring these and some other minor incidents of some places, no untoward incident has been reported. He said essential services in the state had continued to function and the attendance of employees in the state secretariat at Dispur was normal.

Situation Report

BK090318 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Feb 83

[Text] In Assam, essential services continued to function normally yesterday despite the call for noncooperation by the agitation leaders. The Chief Secretary Mr Ramesh Chandra said in Gauhati that the attendance in the state secretariat at Dispur and Northeast Frontier Railway headquarters at Malegaon is good. He said the functioning of the Gauhati and Digboi oil refineries and the pumping of crude were not affected.

Electioneering by political parties is continuing in various parts of the state. Poster publicity and door-to-door campaigns by candidates have been reported from various constituencies.

Meanwhile, reports have been received of one more incident of violence yesterday. Police opened fire at (Sarcharai) in Sibsagar District to disperse a violent crowd which attacked an election candidate. One person was killed and four injured.

AFP on Clashes

BK090716 Hong Kong AFP in English 0702 GMT 9 Feb 83

[By Dilip Ganguly]

[Excerpts] New Delhi, Feb. 9 (AFP) -- Anti-poll militants in Assam have chopped off a socialist party leader's ear and unleashed a reign of terror in the state as the official death toll during the week-long violence rose to 31, Indian news agencies reported today.

The militants, who were aided by local natives armed with bows and arrows and choppers, attacked government buildings at several places and clashed with the police and para military troops.

At least 12 people have died in the wave of violence during the past 24 hours bringing the official death toll to 31. Unofficial -- but reliable reports, put the toll at 35 to 40 with over 100 people in the injured list.

Federal sources here expressed alarm at the fast deteriorating law and order situation in the state which will vote later this month to elect a 126-member state assembly and 12 deputies to the lower house of the Indian parliament.

Federal Interior Ministry officials have flown to state capital Gauhati to review the situation and draw security plans for Indian Premier Indira Gandhi who is scheduled to tour the state beginning tomorrow.

Indian news reports identified the political worker whose left ear was chopped off by the militants as M. Barua, a district secretary of the socialist party, which styles itself as Revolutionary Communist Party of India (RCPI).

At least four school buildings, three government offices and several state-owned vehicles were burnt by the militants in the past 24 hours.

Natives and police clashed at many places yesterday forcing police to open fire killing at least eight people on the spot. Three more fell victims to natives-immigrants clashes and bomb attacks. Over 20 policemen, including a dozen para military troops, also sustained injuries in the clashes.

Over 65,000 police and para military forces are currently deployed in the state, but massive reinforcements have apparently failed to maintain law and order with barely five days remaining for the polls to begin on February 14.

In the Indian capital, federal employees started receiving government orders asking them to pack up within 24 hours and report for election duties in Assam. The step follows the refusal of Assam Government staff to conduct polls. Indian newspapers today said many of the federal employees were reluctant to go to the state. An estimated 60,000 workers are needed to conduct the elections, but so far only 3,000 have reported for duties.

CONGRESS-I OFFICIAL SHOT, WOUNDED IN AMRITSAR

BK0081628 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Text] In Amritsar today, an attempt was made on the life of Mr Jaswant Singh, vice president of the Block Congress-I Committee, Mehta Chauk, when he was shot at by two unknown persons. Mr Singh was injured and has been admitted to the Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital in Amritsar.

REPORTAGE ON NEPALESE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT

5 February Arrival

BK051509 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 5 Feb 83

[Text] Nepalese Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa was given a warm welcome on his arrival at Islamabad Airport this afternoon on a 3-day official visit to Pakistan. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub welcomed him at the airport. A 19-gun salute heralded the arrival of the Nepalese prime minister. He later was presented a guard of honor by a contingent of the Armed Forces; the national anthems of both countries were played.

Radio Pakistan correspondent says that during his stay in the federal capital, the Nepalese prime minister will exchange views with President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq on bilateral relations and regional and international situations. The president is hosting a banquet in his honor tonight. The Nepalese prime minister is accompanied by a 10-member delegation including the Nepalese foreign minister.

Zia, Thapa Banquet Remarks

BK060700 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Text] Pakistan and Nepal have called for the total and unconditional withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan and Kampuchea and the right of every nation to independence. The call was made by President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa at a banquet in Rawalpindi last night.

The president said Afghanistan has been under foreign military occupation for the last 3 years and Kampuchea continues to suffer as a result of a massive military intervention by a neighboring country. He said mutual respect for sovereignty, equality, and national independence and support for the right of self-determination are essential for the maintenance of global peace, stability, and security.

Prime Minister Thapa said every nation, big or small, has the right to choose its own destiny and to conduct its relations without outside pressure or interference.

The Pakistani president and the Nepalese prime minister reiterated their two countries' commitment to the principles of nonalignment and peaceful coexistence.

The president noted that the visit of the Nepalese prime minister has taken place on the eve of the forthcoming nonaligned summit and thus has enabled them to exchange views on the burning issues of our time, which will come up at the summit.

The leaders also voiced their support and commitment to South Asian regional cooperation. They expressed satisfaction at the continuation of the historical friendly ties between Nepal and Pakistan and expressed their desire to further strength them.

6 February Talks

BK061625 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Text] Pakistan and Nepal have agreed in principle to set up a joint commission at the ministerial level. This was agreed upon at the formal talks between President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq and visiting Nepalese Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa in Rawalpindi this afternoon.

They agreed to strengthen cooperation in economic, trade, education, and related sectors. Both countries will exchange delegations to identify sectors for mutual cooperation.

The two leaders reviewed bilateral matters and regional and international issues. They held indepth discussion on the forthcoming Delhi nonaligned summit. There was a close identity of views on issues such as Afghanistan, Kampuchea, the Middle East, Palestine, and the Gulf war. Both sides assessed efforts for the promotion of regional cooeration in South Asia and the pace of implementation of various recommendations in this connection. They expressed the hope that this will lead to the strengthening of close relations between the countries of the region.

They also exchanged views on the deteriorating international economic situation and the need for establishment of a new international economic order. In this connection, they agreed that the developing countries should enhance cooperation among themselves to achieve self-reliance.

While accepting the invitation extended by the Nepalese Government for a visit to Nepal, the president told the Nepalese prime minister that he will do so at a date mutually fixed through consultations between the two governments.

Finance Minister Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, Information and Broadcasting Minister Raja Zafarul Haq, Industries Minister Elahi Bux Soomro, and high officials assisted the president in the talks. The Nepalese prime minister was assisted by his Foreign Minister Padma Bahadur Khatri and other members of the delegation accompanying him.

Foreign Ministers Meeting

BK070423 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] Nepalese Foreign Minister Major General Padma Bahadur Khatri called on Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan in the Foreign Office in Islamabad yesterday afternoon. They exchanged views on matters of mutual interest.

Nepalese Ambassador in Pakistan Lohani hosted a dinner in honor of Nepalese Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa last night.

Thapa News Conference

BK070654 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Excerpt] The proposed Pakistan-Nepal ministerial-level commission will be set up soon. The commission will explore areas of cooperation between the two countries. Agreement to set up the joint commission was reached during talks between Nepalese Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa and President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi yesterday. This was stated by the Nepalese prime minister at a news conference in Rawalpindi this morning at the conclusion of his 3-day state visit to Pakistan.

He expressed satisfaction with his talks with Pakistani leaders and said the talks were very good. Bilateral relations, the forthcoming nonaligned summit conference, and international issues of common interest were discussed. The Nepalese prime minister said the possibilities for increasing trade between Pakistan and Nepal and for starting joint ventures also were discussed.

In reply to a question about prospects for regional cooperation in South Asia, he said certain areas already have been identified for this purpose. With the passage of time and with better understanding among the countries of the region, this cooperation will prove more beneficial, he added.

In reply to a question about the New Delhi nonaligned summit conference, he expressed the hope that as a result of this conference the unity and basic identity of the Nonaligned Movement will be further (?strengthened) and consolidated.

Later, the Nepalese prime minister was given a warm send off when he left Islamabad. He was seen off at the airport by President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq. Also present on the occasion were the federal ministers, diplomatic representatives, and senior civilian and military officials.

Joint Press Statement

BK071031 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Excerpt] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Nepalese Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa have expressed their satisfaction at the current state of bilateral relations and noted that considerable scope exists for expanding cooperation in a number of fields. The fields include trade, joint ventures, agriculture, health, education, research, and training as well as improvement in communication links between the two countries. To this end, they have agreed to exchange delegations in various fields. This has been stated in a joint press release issued at the conclusion of the Nepalese prime minister's visit to Pakistan today.

The two leaders, during the course of their talks, found identity of views on various international issues such as Middle East, Iran-Iraq war, Afghanistan, and Kampuchea. They agreed that the forthcoming nonaligned summit presented historical opportunity to the members of the movement to reaffirm their strict adherence to the principles of peaceful and good neighborly relations.

The president and the Nepalese prime minister hoped regional cooperation by countries of South Asia will be for their economic and social development. The two leaders stressed the imperative need for the establishment of a new international economic order. The urged the developing countries to intensify cooperation among themselves in order to attain collective self-reliances.

Pakistan and Nepal agreed in principle to have a joint commission at ministerial level. President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq accepted the invitation on behalf of King Birendra to visit Nepal. The dates of the visit will be fixed through diplomatic channels.

STUDENTS URGED TO DESIST FROM ILLEGAL ACTS

GF081830 Karachi DAWN in English 5 Feb 83 p 1

[Text] The divisional commissioner, Karachi, yesterday advised the student demonstrators in the city to desist "from persuing unlawful acts" and, instead, seek their redress in the court of law.

In a press note issued last evening he said that "any further act of hooliganism resulting in inconvenience to the general public cannot be allowed and the administration will be forced to take action under the law against those indulging in such acts."

Following is the text of the press note:

"A group of students belonging to Islamic Jamiat-e Tuleba [IJT] have been disrupting traffic at various places in Karachi and causing great inconvenience to the general public to press for the acceptance of their demands of which the main demand is to release the accused in the murder case of Qadeer Abid.

"It will be recalled that a clash took place in the Karachi University campus on 1st July, 1982, between two groups of students where fire-arms were also used. Qadeer Abid, a student of B.A. honours international relations, was killed and six others injured. Two of the accused namely Imtiaz Gudoo and Ahmad Ali of IJT were arrested the same day while the other four absconded. The two arrested accused applied for bail in the sessions court but their bail applications were rejected. Subsequently they approached the High Court and the Supreme Court where also their bail applications were rejected. Later on the police was able to apprehend two other accused Viz Irshad and Saifuddin of IJT in December 1982. Subsequent to the opening of the Karachi University after the winter vacations, the IJT students and their supporters started agitating for the release of the arrested accused and withdrawal of the murder case against them.

"Simultaneously the IJT students started agitation within the university campus. The police had to intervene and on one occasion tear-gas had to be used to control the situation. Later on the said group started disrupting the traffic causing great inconvenience to the general public and twice locked the administrative block of the university. They also disrupted the cricket match being played at the National Stadium in Karachi between the Indian and Pakistani national teams on February 3. Twelve persons were arrested on the spot and are being proceeded under the relevant law.

During this period, the local administration has been constantly in touch with the said students and their supporters and have explained to them time and again to seek their redress in the court of law where the case has been channeled. They have been advised that it is not possible to withdraw the case and release the accused in a murder case. The proper course is to approach the relevant court.

"The administration has so far exercised patience and maximum restraint hoping that the students would follow the advice given to them and seek their redress in the court of law but they have presisted in such unlawful acts. Any further act of hooliganism resulting in inconvenience to the general public cannot be allowed and the administration will be forced to take action under the law against those indulging in such acts."

HASHEMI-RAFSANJANI OUTLINES POSITION ON WAR

LD081108 Tehran IRNA in English 0940 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 8 (IRNA) -- Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said Monday night that the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that Saddam and his party can no longer rule Iraq, and that Iran will allow a tribunal to pay the war reparations to Iran, so that the Iraqis in Iran could return to their homes. "If not," added the speaker, "we will go with our G-3 guns to punish Saddam, unless he flees to Paris."

Rafsanjani, who was speaking in a dinner reception given on behalf of the Majlis in honour of the guests of the ten day of dawn ceremonies, said Iran will forego the war reparations it had asked for, if an Islamic republic will be established in Iraq, otherwise Iran will not forego her rights.

Speaking on the "Wal Fajr" operations which were launched Sunday night by the Islamic combatants of Iran, the speaker said he [word indistinct] that this operation will be the last one, concluding the war, and tranquilizing the region.

Referring to the countries of the Persian Gulf area, he said Iran will tell them the same things that Joseph said to his guilty brothers. (Joseph forgave his brothers who plotted to kill him.)

He said the Iranian forces have been at the sensitive points in the fronts for the last two or three months, but since the Iranian leaders, especially Imam Khomeyni, gave countless ultimatums to Iraq, so that it would surrender to justice, and Saddam did not heed, he added, Iran was left with no alternative but to use force to gain her rights. He added that Iran will finally bring Saddam to trial for all the material and spiritual casualties he had inflicted on the two nations, which should have been employed against the Zionist regime.

Speaking on Iran's commitment for peace, the speaker said from the very early days after the war started, Iran had explicitly announced her terms for peace, to which it is committed now, i.e. complete withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Iran, payment of war reparations and the punishment of the aggressor.

Rafsanjani said Iraq wanted to bring down the morale of the Iranian nation by sending peace missions under the name of mediation, while they were occupying our lands. "We will continue to fight, till we gain our rights from the aggressor and punish him", said the speaker.

Describing the nature of the Iraqi imposed war on Iran, the speaker of the Majlis said it was purely imperialist, aimed at subjugating Islam in the region, and preserving the superpowers' interests, especially those of the U.S. and creating division among the Islamic world.

Since the U.S. failed in stopping the Islamic Revolution of Iran, added Rafsanjani, it decided to launch various plots to eliminate it such as coup plots, separations of the Iranian provinces, [word indistinct] and finally it imposed a war on the Iranian nation for which they found no better country in the Iranian neighbours, except Iraq.

He said since Iraq spent a long time shouting socialist slogans, spending all the Iraqi national capital on the Armed Forces, the U.S. ordered Iraq to attack Iran in a plan fancying they could invade Khuzestan in a week and give the Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf to the countries there.

He said in the very beginning of the war, the Iranian army was not prepared for defence but after Imam Khomeyni's order for mobilising all the nation to defend the country, Iran gradually forced Iraq back.

In the session last night, the speaker also responded to the guests' questions.

JOINT OPERATIONS CENTER ISSUES COMMUNIQUE NO 3

LD081208 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Communique No 3 of Khatam al-Anbiya Headquarters, center of joint operations of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. O Muslim and martyr-nurturing nation, your brave offspring who are creating eternal sagas on the battle-fronts to safeguard the achievements of the great Islamic Revolution and to realize the rights of the Islamic nation, continuing the first stage of the Wal Fajr operation, codenamed O Allah, O Allah, O Allah, passed vast minefields, ditches, explosive traps, and barbed wire and attacked the lines of the aggressor, inflicting losses and casualties on the Zionist enemy.

Last night they cleansed another 50 square km of the filthy presence of the lackeys of world blasphemy. Thus, since the beginning of the first stage of the Wal Fajr operation, about 300 square km of the operational theater have been cleansed of enemy presence. Since the start of the operation, more than 800 enemy personnel have been killed or wounded and several, including a number of officers, have been captured by the victorious forces of Islam. The number will be announced later. Several enemy vehicles and personnel carriers were destroyed and quantities of equipment and hardware were captured.

[Signed] The Khatam al-Anbiya Headquarters, center of joint operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1,211

LD081718 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Communique No 1,211 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The blasphemy-fighting combatants of the path of monotheism, carrying out the preliminary phase of the Wal Fajr operations, bravely continue to open fire on and destroy the Saddamist positions. All participating units, achieving total success in attaining the goals of this phase of the operations, currently are consolidating and strengthening new positions and are mopping up the liberated areas. They are maintaining their domination and are defending their positions with power and vigilance. The self-sacrificing pilots of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the army's Airborne Division are safeguarding the skies over the operational zone, giving air support to fighting units on the ground and are supporting their victorious brothers.

Our selfless, heroic combatants on the forward lines of the country's western fronts yesterday returned enemy fire and inflicted losses and casualties on the Saddamist forces.

During the past 24 hours on the border fronts in Ilam and Bakhtaran, exchange of fire continued; its intensity was fiercer than on other fronts. Thanks to fire opened by our own artillery units, 2 enemy tanks, 2 106-mm rifles, and 20 trenches were destroyed and a group of Saddamists were killed.

In the operational zone in Abadan and Khorramshahr, clashes took place yesterday between Islam's forces and Iraqi units deployed on the opposite bank of the Arvand Rud. Thanks to heavy weapons' fire by our forces, five enemy observation posts, one ammunition dump, and a number of trenches and foxholes were destroyed.

Abadan yesterday came under intense fire from enemy long-range weapons. As a result, one house and part of a school were destroyed and several points in the city were set ablaze.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

KHOMEYNI ADDRESSES AIR FORCE PERSONNEL 8 FEB

LD081501 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Ayatollah Khomeyni speech to Air Force commander and personnel at Hoseyniyeh Jamaran Mosque on 8 February -- recorded; duration 23 minutes]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I congratulate you gentlemen and all the Armed Forces and the great Islamic nation on the powerful victories of Islam during the recent 10 days of dawn.

There are some who provoke the Armed Forces. They say the Armed Forces in Iran will have nothing to do with the Islamic Republic. Sometimes they say the reverse. Their aim, after each defeat they suffer, is to camouflage their own defeats. Then they utter contradictory statements.

Right now, they report what the Government of Iran claims and also what Saddam claims. Saddam says: We have thrown them all out of Iraq; we have either killed them or thrown them out; we have captured all their equipment. This is the basis of their argument.

Governments of the region should realize that if they familiarize themselves with Islam and extend the hand of brotherhood toward Iran, Iran is capable of ridding them of all superpowers. Then they would not have to worry about America's reaction to their actions. We have done all the things you are frightened to do. We threw out America's servant. We closed and occupied the so-called American Embassy. We threw the American spies out of our country. We threw out American advisers. America could do nothing. [shouts of "God is great," "Death to the opposers of clerical rule," "Death to America," "Death to the USSR," "Death to the hypocrites and Saddam," "Death to Israel"]

Iran has a limited population of, at most, 40 million. The weapons at Iran's disposal are limited in number. Nevertheless, Iran stands in front of all these powers, fearing none of them, because Iran relies on one power -- God. Whoever relies on the power of God need rely on no other. If a country with a population of 40 million can stand in front of America, the USSR, France, and all other powers; if a nation [words indistinct] can anyone oppose it?

There are 1 billion Muslims, but they are not united. Their governments oppose their nations and the nations oppose the governments. Islamic governments oppose each other. Even if they claim to be friends, they lie. Saddam, who up to now claims not to have links with America, to hold Israel and Egypt as his enemies, to be an Arab loyal to Arab principles having nothing to do with others, has now shown his true colors.

It is now clear that this man has been pro-American, pro-Israeli, and all the while has had dealings with the USSR and France behind the backs of the first two. The only thing he did not (?have) was loyalty to Arabs. He deals with Egypt only because America supports it. He wants only to assert his power in the region. From the very beginning, when he launched his attack, he was duped, helped by his own ambitions, his so-called foresight, his evil, and his worldly intentions.

America toyed with him, thinking that Iran had nothing left, that the Armed Forces were disintegrating, that the Guards Corps amounted to not very much, and the people were shying away from these issues. America told him: Take Iran, Iran is yours, take over the whole of the region, all the region is yours. They told him such tales and duped him, and that unfortunate creature was deceived and attacked Iran. No one considered Iran to be of any importance. They assumed Iran was in the same shape as it was under the former regime. They were not aware that when a country becomes Islamic and shouts Islam, it is something different and quite apart from their realm of understanding. They are not aware of the power of Islam. Not only them but some of those who were with us and who fled and turned out to be hypocrites, they don't understand what Iran means.

I hope God Almighty continues His support for us. I hope we will serve God more than before. I hope we will be united like one arm in [word indistinct]. May God grant you health. Your achievements will never be forgotten. You were the first group to join us and Islam. You were the vanguards. You are dear to God. Peace be upon you all.

MINISTER CONFIRMS ARREST OF TUDEH LEADERS

GF081736 Tehran IRNA in English 1715 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 8 IRNA -- Interior Minister Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri Monday confirmed press reports that Nureddin Kianuri and many other members and leaders of the Tudeh Party have been arrested for spying, falsifying documents and illegal actions.

The daily KEYHAN reported today that the interior minister was speaking to a group of martyr families at a gathering in Azadi Square's underground hall.

All major dailies reported Monday the arrest of a number of persons on charges of spying for the KGB, the Soviet Union's secret police, by the Islamic Revolution guards. However, only ETTELA'AT said that Kianuri and the party's ideologist Ehsan Tabari were thought to be among those arrested.

NVOI DECRIES ARREST OF 'TRUE PATRIOTS'

TA082140 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Unattributed commentary" "What Is the Aim of Harassing the True Patriots?"]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots: The great satan is preparing new plots against the Iranian people and our glorious revolution, whose fourth anniversary we are approaching. As you are aware, all the counterrevolutionary groups operating in France and Egypt against the Islamic Republic of Iran are supported financially by the bloodsucking U.S. imperialists. They spend millions of dollars to equip counterrevolutionary groups with the weapons of the imperialists. These groups, which are basically in Egypt, are given military training by U.S. military experts or experts affiliated with the CIA.

The establishment of a special committee with the aim of directing plots and various subversions in the Islamic Republic of Iran and of strengthening the counterrevolutionary forces is proof that America has escalated the scope of its plots against our homeland. The representatives of the CIA and the Pentagon, who have been assigned the task of hatching a plot to overthrow the Islamic Republic of Iran, participate in this committee. On the other hand, the first-string U.S. plotters strive to take the greatest advantage of the weak points apparent in the current system of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

First and foremost, one of these weak points is that the sincere followers of the imam's popular and anti-imperialist line have still not succeeded in defining a limit between the true supporters of Iran's Islamic Revolution and its enemies, both within the country and on the international scale, and in formulating their policy and attitude on the basis of precise facts. It is this very weak point of the Islamic leadership which today is being exploited by the U.S. imperialists. They are employing all their might so that by sowing discord and creating a climate of mistrust between the true followers of the imam's line and the genuine revolutionary dissenting forces, they will deprive the Islamic leadership of the support and backing of these genuine forces and, at the same time, make our revolutionary homeland lose the support of the world's progressive forces who have so far sincerely defended the Iranian Revolution's popular and anti-imperialist aspect. It is by achieving this aim that the U.S. plotters are able to fulfill their evil goals and to implement their colonialist objectives, namely, the overthrow of our Islamic Republic and the restoration of the domination of U.S. monopolies.

The unity of our country's anti-imperialist forces is the greatest obstacle to the achievement of the imperialists' ominous aims. It is for this reason that America strives by creating mistrust and lack of confidence in the Islamic leadership toward these genuine forces to infiltrate the common front of the anti-imperialist struggle, and it must be said that in some instances they have achieved certain successes as well.

The harassment and arrest of true patriots, which is currently being pursued by the Islamic Government, is, in fact, an action that can only cause the satisfaction of the U.S. plotters and their Iranian agents, headed by the CIA-afflicted hojjatis. The arrest of these patriots who are sincerely struggling for the achievement of the popular and anti-imperialist aims of the glorious Iranian Revolution has aroused the regret and wrath of the broad masses of the people, for they are well aware that this action is to the benefit of the counterrevolution and to the detriment of the revolution and the followers of the imam's and revolution's genuine line.

By paying the slightest attention, we can see today that it is the strugglers affiliated with the true revolutionary forces who are being harassed and detained -- strugglers who scores of years prior to the Iranian Revolution's victory consciously spent their entire life in continuous and relentless struggle against the sinister monarchical regime and imperialist domination and for the realization of the Iranian people's real independence and freedom. Such harassments are accompanied by certain endeavors which in practice deal heavy blows to any sort of effective and serious measures aimed at fulfilling the contents of the Constitution, which defend the rights of toilers against the exploitation of major capitalists and large landowners and to the achievement of fundamental social reforms in the interest of the people.

A totally clear and self-evident problem is that if the true and realistic followers of the imam's line, who are in the upper echelons of the Islamic Government, are not able to prevent the violation of laws by rightist forces in the Islamic government, headed by the CIA-afflicted hojjatis, irreparable damage will be dealt to the revolution and its expansion among the masses and to its prestige on the international scene, and the future development and perpetuation of the revolution itself will be called into question.

NVOI COMMENTARY CONDEMNS 'ANTI-SOVIETISM'

TA012027 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Unattributed commentary: "The People Condemn Anti-Sovietism"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: Public opinion in our homeland condemns the endeavor of some of the authorities in slandering and distorting the policy of our northern neighbor, the Soviet Union. Many in our homeland justly believe that these slanderers are pouring grist into the mill of our nation's No 1 enemy, world-devouring America, and that they are acting to the revolution's detriment. It is said that the calumnies against the Soviet Union are an effort to prevent the expansion of good-neighborly relations between our country and the Soviet Union and should be assessed as a subversive and dangerous act against the revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Why? Because what these gentlemen are saying today is a repetition of the very items about which one day the court of the annihilated Mohammed Reza and SAVAK's writers raised a tumult. Anti-Sovietism flourished during the domination of the accursed Mohammad Reza. At that time, the elements and agents of the court and imperialism unjustly accused the Soviet Union so that their American masters would be able to easily plunder our country and keep our nation in chains. In those days, agents of the U.S. court strove to distort and alter the characteristics of Soviet-Iranian relations, to diminish their importance, and in return to project America as the friend of the Iranian nation. However, we all saw that America was the friend of the accursed shah, not of the Iranian nation.

America and the accursed shah and their agents plundered Iran and Iranians unilaterally. Why are these gentlemen today making the Soviet Union a target of accusations and slanders? The answer to this question can be found in the wise statements of the imam of the nation, who said: They raise the name of the Soviet Union so that America will be negated.

All of us are aware that by overthrowing the sinster and American regime of the accursed shah, our nation's glorious revolution dealt a fatal blow to the strategic, political, and economic positions of America and the West, not only in Iran but in the region. It is particularly for this reason that U.S. imperialism tried so frantically to save the regime of the annihilated shah. After it failed in this objective, it resorted to every treachery and plot to return Iran to the orbit of its dependence. In implementing this plot, America mounted a wide propaganda campaign and extensive economic, political, and propaganda plots against revolutionary Iran. The powerful U.S. naval forces approached our country's southern shores to threaten the Iranian Revolution and U.S. leaders were planning a military attack on Iran.

However, since the very outset of our nation's revolutionary movement, the Soviet Union supported this anti-imperialist, antidespotic, and popular revolution. When America threatened revolutionary Iran with armed aggression, the whole world heard that Moscow warned America that Iran's developments were an internal matter and that no one under any pretext has the right to interfere in the affairs of this country. Without doubt, this timely warning produced its effect and played a valuable role in foiling America's plot.

We are all aware that the Soviet Union immediately recognized Iran's revolutionary government and declared its readiness to establish mutual good relations. In their message to Imam Khomeyni on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of Iranian-Soviet relations, the leaders of the Soviet Union emphasized that in their relations with revolutionary Iran they rely on the indisputable principle of equality, respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and noninterference in the internal affairs of each other.

Our revolutionary nation knows who its friends are and the ruses of Western statesmen and their elements are not able to cover up the content of the Soviet Union's policy in the difficult days for our nation and revolution in the struggle against the tyranny of world-devouring America. Our nation justly considers anti-Sovietism to be a policy in the interest of world-devouring America and its elements and believes that it should be terminated.

REPORTAGE ON PLO OFFICIAL'S 5-DAY VISIT

Interview on Arrival

LD020420 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Feb 83

[Text] Abu Salih [Nimr Salih], member of the Fatah Central Council, arrived in Tehran this afternoon to participate in the 10 days of dawn anniversary celebrations. He was welcomed by the political under secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In an interview given to our correspondent at Mehrabad Airport, concerning the Palestine movement's stand toward the war Iraq has imposed on Iran, Abu Salih said:

The best expression of the Palestine revolution's stand toward Iraq's war on Iran is my very presence here. We are on the side of Iran's Islamic Revolution. In our opinion, this is a genuine revolution which supports liberating Palestine and saving the Arab nation from the chains and shackles of reaction. He added: By attacking the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq has actually served U.S. interests in the region -- the first being the destruction of the Islamic Revolution. We have not been and we do not see any advantange for the Iraqi people and the Arab nation in this move; we deem it as solely serving reaction and the United States.

He also said: The Palestinians in the occupied territories are eagerly awaiting the day when, under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni, dear Jerusalem and the land of Palestine will be liberated and when our Muslim Iranian brethren are at the side of their Palestinian brethren on that path.

Referring to the present sensitive conditions and the multifarious plots hatched to destroy the Islamic and Palestine revolutions, the PLO member said: In these arduous conditions where sundry forces have concentrated their efforts to destroy the Palestine revolution, we have begun a momentous jihad against the deviationists and reactionaries in the Arab world. In this struggle, we feel that our Iranian brothers are on our side; we are awaiting the arrival of the vanguard of the Iranian fighters in dear Jerusalem in order to liberate it and to destroy Zionism.

Concerning the possibility of the Palestinian forces leaving the Al-Biqa' Valley, Abu Salih said: No decision has yet been made in this connection and I must say that in any case, no decision based on retreating would be made. On the side of the Lebanese people, we will always remain in a state of war against Israel and we will deal a blow to the Zionists whenever we find the opportunity. He emphasized: Although the United States and the reactionary forces attempt to realize that retreat, our forces will never retreat and will continue to chase the Israelis.

In connection with the PLO's future plans of struggle, the PLO member said: We are continuing our armed struggle in Beirut and at the same time we have begun taking steps to rebuild our forces in Lebanon and in the occupied territories. He added: The Palestinian fighters are in favor of continuing the struggle, while the United States and regional reaction desire the opposite. He said: The Palestinian fighters and the Lebanese people currently are continuing their struggle against the Zionist enemy with greater depth, and I assure you that our struggle is more stubborn than in the past.

It is essential for us to remind you that 2 weeks ago Abu Salih called on all revolutionary forces to resolutely condemn connivance with the Zionists in order to support and preserve the PLO.

Meeting With Velayati

GF031250 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 3 Feb 83

[Excerpt] In his meeting today with Abu Salih [Nimr Salih], Palestinian Fatah Central Committee member, Velayati affirmed the support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the struggle of the Muslim Palestinian people. He said the Muslim Iranian people set great hopes on the seizure of the occupied territories from the claws of the usurpers, on the eradication of the Zionist entity from historical records, and on the elimination of that entity through the unification of all Muslim peoples.

Talks With Majlis Speaker

GF040620 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Text] Abu Salih, [Nimr Salih], member of the Fatah Central Committee, met with Islamic Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani and held talks with him.

While elaborating on the conspiratorial efforts for the elimination of the Palestinian aspirations and their repression, Abu Salih said: Most of the Palestinian combatants want to continue the armed struggle against the United States and the Zionist regime. He added: We vehemently condemn all efforts to politicize the Palestinian movement and we reject all U.S. plans to dominate the area. Expressing his support for the Islamic Revolution of Iran, he said: Iran is strategically important to the nations of the region in their struggle for the liberation of Jerusalem. [as heard]

The Islamic Majlis speaker stressed the overall support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the righteous struggle of the Palestinian nation: We believe the only way to control Israel is by waging a prolonged and multipronged war against this despotic regime -- a war for which the world of Islam must assume responsibility.

Departure Remarks

GF061010 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Text] Fatah Central Committee member Abu Salih [Nimr Salih] noted that the Iranian Islamic Revolution and the Palestinian revolution stand together in the struggle against the United States. Abu Salih made this statement to press, radio, and television at the conclusion of his 5-day visit to Iran.

He added that the current views and the future views of the Islamic Revolution of Iran and of the Palestinian combatants are and will remain identical, indicating that this serves to encourage the Palestinian combatants to continue to struggle with determination and power.

Abu Salih added that the Reagan plan or any other reactionary plan aimed at strengthening the U.S. and Zionist hegemony in the region is completely rejected. Abu Salih denounced the meetings of some of the Palestinian leaders with the reactionaries in the region and said that these meetings were held only to serve the goals of the reactionaries in the region. He also rejected the formation of a confederation by Palestine and Jordan, saying that it was a U.S. orchestrated trick. He added: At the present time when Palestinian territories are under the Zionist occupation, there is nothing to be gained in holding talks with Jordan; we disavow these talks.

He referred to the efforts being exerted to restore Egypt to the Arab League. He said: Egypt is condemned because of the Camp David accord, since this agreement ignored the rights of the Palestinian, Arab, and Egyptian peoples. He added that those who want to restore Arab League membership to the Egyptian regime actually want to throw the Arabs into the arms of the United States and the Zionist entity.

Abu Salih referred to the Iraqi war imposed on Iran: The Iraqi regime -- through its war against Iran -- is playing the role of a bridge for the Arab reactionaries and the United States in the Middle East by striking at the Islamic Revolution in Iran and eliminating the Palestinian aspirations and goals.

UN ENVOY DEPARTS; TALKS WITH KABUL REJECTED

LD091330 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Text] The special representative of the UN secretary general in Afghanistan affairs, Cordovez, who had come to Iran last Saturday, left Tehran yesterday after meeting with the director general of Asian and African affairs of the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran and after elaborating on the results of his trips to Afghanistan and Pakistan. In the meeting with Cordovez, the Iranian officials, while emphasizing the four principles formerly announced by the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning the issue of Afghanistan, rejected any kind of direct or indirect talks with the regime of Kabul and participation in the Geneva talks.

HASHEMI-RAFSANJANI SERMON WARNS ARAB COUNTRIES

LD041832 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Excerpts] Millions of our Muslim compatriots today took part in the glorious Friday prayers in various cities and villages of our country. The political and religious Friday prayers in Tehran were held at the University of Tehran under the leadership of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin [Hashemi-Rafsanjani], the provisional Friday imam of Tehran, with the participation of foreign guests participating in the celebrations of the fourth anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

In his sermon, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the martyrdom of a number of leaders and heroes of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps on the battlefields: They always yearned for martyrdom. We will avenge the Ba'thist Iraqi commanders for that martyrdom and we express our congratulations and condolences on their martyrdom to their esteemed families and to the Iranian nation.

Referring to the difficult stages which the Iranian Revolution left behind during its 4-year existence, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani mentioned the gains of the Islamic Revolution of Iran: The Islamic Republic with its slogans of "independence, freedom, Islamic Republic, neither East nor West" proved that a nation can stage a revolution against both the East and the West simply by relying on the people. Another characteristic of the Iranian Revolution was to show that the people are an eternal and boundless source that will never be destroyed. The cohesion between the people and the government is the guarantee of victory. The Islamic Revolution of Iran also debunked the fallacy that religion cannot be the initiator of political and social movements. It proved the emptiness of the theories of the East and the West on this question. Religion proved itself a powerful mover of human beings whose power will never end. Both the East and the West are frightened of this revolution. The fact that the Muslims have realized that Islam can be a source of movement has created a nightmare for the Western people.

Referring to the events taking place in the West, for instance in France and the justice-seeking moves by French workers, he said: These strikes are by workers whose roots are in the immigrant Muslim African workers. Their analysts have at last confessed that these movements are influenced by the Islamic Revolution. These are nightmares for them. The revolution will not only be exported to Islamic countries. All the workers of the world understand its justice-seeking motives. And this will be the exportation of the Islamic Revolution to the world.

He then referred to the role of the Islamic Revolution in achieving the rights of the oppressed nations and the Third World and said that the present price of oil which is $34, instead of $12 as during the time of the shah, was one of the gains of the struggle of the Muslim nation and the revolutionary workers of the oil company.

Referring to the world conspiracy against Islam, he said: In the same way that in the past they frightened everyone with communism, now they frighten them with Islam. Enumerating the characteristics of the Islamic Revolution, he described the methods used by the Islamic Republic: The difference between us and France is that France supports murderers and those who explode bombs but the Islamic Revolution has no need of such methods in order to export its revolution.

In connection with the collusion of the superpowers in confronting the Islamic Revolution of Iran and the activities of the reactionary regimes of the region, the provisional Friday imam of Tehran said:

[Begin recording] One of the important gains and lessons of the revolution was to show that the controversy between Russia and America is to a large extent artificial. When the need arises, they collude with one another and suppress the people. How is it that the Russians provide the Iraqis with 9-meter missiles with a range of 280 km and the French provide it with Exocets while it is in a state of war? It is one of your rules that you should not provide such assistance to either side during a war. This shows that something else is involved here.

All of them want to suppress Islam. All of them want to suppress the oppressed people. They will support whoever is in their service. All the principles which they formulated for themselves have been shattered. All the principles with which they wished to deceive the people have been destroyed. All the palaces they constructed for their own security have been cracked as the result of this upheaval. All the principles they presented were put in doubt.

The dear guests who are present at our gathering to take part in the dawn celebrations will carry our remarks to other parts of the world.

I have prepared the last part of my speech about the war in Arabic, which I will read for our Arab sisters and brothers. As an introduction I should say that the Arabic sermon is about the mission of these mobilization brothers, more than 3,000 of whom are present at these Friday prayers with their luminous faces and who are ready to be sent to the fronts and will leave for the fronts today.

Two weeks ago, I announced that we will provide the Iraqi 'Aflaqite Ba'thists with a deadline so that they might think and be warned. We hope they will take heed. Of course, we regard it as very unlikely. But in any case, we have delivered our ultimatum.

Today my Arabic sermon contains an ultimatum to other Arab countries, the countries which have supported Iraq. The political climate which we feel exists in the region is that the region is getting ready for living without Saddam. This is gradually becoming clearer; this is what can be seen. What we want to say to the reactionary countries which have supported Baghdad is: You have provided it with a great deal of help. You have provided it with a lot of money, equipment, transportation, and port facilities. All these can be forgiven by us. We will seize the real culprit. However, you should no longer continue these actions. We have no objective in Iraq except a government by the Iraqi people. The Iraqi people should decide their fate themselves. The people of the region, the governments of the region, should not think of setting up a government in Iraq like the governments of Jordan and Sudan. This must not be done. After giving so many martyrs to arrive at the present position, we will not stand idly by so that you can create a new Jordan and block our way to Palestine with a new Jordan in the way that you blocked it so far with Saddam. This must not be done. You should allow the Iraqi people to do what they want.

If the countries of the region do not sully themselves with this servitude to America and if they do not want to become a means of imposing a new government upon the people of Iraq, they can live with us in peace and security. They can be confident that neither now or any other time has the Islamic Republic any intention of engaging in aggression and violation against any country, especially neighboring countries. For us, only Israel is tyrannical and usurping by nature and this is what we have announced and made clear. [end recording]

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani then preached a sermon in Arabic addressed to Muslim Arab sisters and brothers.

Arabic Sermon

GF041150 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0920 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Friday Arabic sermon by Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University -- live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Peace be upon Muslim brothers and sisters throughout the world.

The signs of the despair of the Saddamists and the protectors of the 'Aflaqi Ba'thists, the reactionaries and the imperialists, are becoming manifest. They have despaired of the ability of Iraq's satanical regime to survive. Their despair is clear in their words and actions.

It also appears that area countries are preparing themselves to live in a climate that will prevail in the area soon -- a climate that will prevail in the area without the presence of the Saddamists. Perhaps some people are planning to impose a government on the Iraqi people, either on the orders of their masters or for any other reason.

We declare to all Muslims throughout the world that the policy of the Islamic Republic generally conflicts with aggression against other countries, particularly neighboring Muslim countries. The concept of exporting revolution is not resorting to force to impose the revolution on others. It is to spread and communicate thoughts and thesis of action so as to establish Islam in Muslim countries.

If the Iraqi Government had not attacked us and caused all the losses in men and materiel and destroyed all the forces that should have been used in the liberation of Palestine and if the Iraqi Government should now accept justice, we would not have found it necessary to resort to force to punish the aggressor to regain our rights. However, reprettably they have committed crimes and are not prepared to accept justice. We have no choice but to use force.

Although the countries of the southern Gulf participated with Saddam in plotting the war and contributed some of its expenses and utilized their organizational capabilities, roads, ports, and transport and shipping facilities in support of the aggression against Iran and although these countries so far have not ceased this activity, we are not about to respond to these injustices and aggression in kind. The punishment of the direct aggressor who launched the imposed war is sufficient to warn others. [chants]

Under these circumstances, as the signs of the collapse of the 'Aflaqi Ba'thist regime appear clearly, our Syrian and Libyan brothers have declared their common view and openly agreed with our views. We at least expect the Persian Gulf countries to withdraw now from this battle if they are unable and not prepared to make up for their previous hostility and to maintain their neutrality, if they do not want to defend justice, and not to place their information media and political and organizational capabilities in the service of the aggressor who is about to collapse and fall, and to open a road in the way of our heroic and unjustly treated people so that we can justify our forgiveness of all these sins. We are determined not to lose our patience. However, they can assist us in doing so by correcting their stands.

The best example is what happened in OPEC. Under flimsy pretexts, they implemented the aims of the covetous imperialists, those who are thirsty for oil, by increasing their production and reducing their prices. All these actions are attempts to exert pressure on us and to impose further losses on our country which has faced many difficulties in the war imposed by them. These attempts will be of no avail to them. They will prompt us to make greater efforts to eradicate the tree of imperialism and reactionaries in the area. These attempts will deepen the peoples' awareness despite their annoyance with such behavior.

Listen to this brotherly advice. Don't burn all your bridges. Leave a road open for joint cooperation among Muslim countries in order to save dear Palestine and to expel Zionism from the area. We are still waiting for the Saddamists to make use of the opportunity we declared 2 weeks ago. However, it appears that the devil does not allow them to forego their intransigence and desperate attempts.

Peace be upon those who follow the right path. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. When God's help and victory come, and you see men entering God's religion in throngs, then praise your lord and seek his forgiveness, for He is forgiving. Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

KHOMEYNI RECEIVES MINISTRY OFFICIALS 3 FEBRUARY

GF040600 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Text] Behzad Nabavi, minister of heavy industries; under secretaries of the ministry; members of the managing committee for the expansion and construction of Iranian industries; and directors and supervisors of various industrial groups yesterday visited Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and submitted a report on the problems of the ministry.

During this meeting, Imam Khomeyni stressed that if the path of communication between God and human beings is blocked, no one can open it. He said: I believe you and all those who are employed should bear these two points in mind. One is faith in God and efforts to gain His favor which lies in the severance of this country's dependence on foreigners. It is disgraceful for the Islamic Republic of Iran to extend its hands to others for aid. The second point is that you should not be embarrassed or disappointed in anything because everything cannot be solved at once. Huge tasks are completed gradually and this in turn depends on a person's resolve. Once a person makes up his mind, he forges ahead.

As you see, regarding our revolution, some people had said: Is it possible to confront them without arms? Once the nation decided, it was successful. Now it is up to you to tighten your belts. You should eliminate such thoughts from your minds as everything has to be done by the East or West. You must set yourselves to do everything yourselves. Praise be to God, our country has numerous talented and useful young people and there is no one to interfere in their specialized tasks as under the former regime, or to keep them at the level of common workers.

Now there is plenty of room for your free activity and I pray that you may be successful in this great work you are doing. May the blessings of God be upon you.